

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/713,038	OGASAWARA ET AL.
	Examiner Linh T. Nguyen	Art Unit 2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 11/17/03.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 1-11 are allowable over the prior art of record.

In regards to claim 1, none of the references of record alone or combination disclose or suggest an optical pickup for performing at least one of recording and reproduction of bits of information onto and from an information recording medium by using a single polarized optical beam having a single polarizing direction, comprising: a polarization converting unit configured to convert the single polarized optical beam to plural polarized optical beams having a plurality of polarizing directions; a converting and radiating unit configured to convert polarization modes of the plural polarized optical beams to a polarization mode suitable for one of the recording and the reproduction to produce polarization-converted optical beams, every polarizing direction, and to radiate the polarization-converted optical beams to the information recording medium; a mode returning unit configured to return polarization modes of the polarization-converted optical beams reflected from the information recording medium, to the same polarization mode as that of the plural polarized optical beams and to produce plural polarized reflected optical beams; and a polarization returning unit configured to return polarization modes of the plural polarized reflected optical beams to the same polarization mode as the single polarized optical mode.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure, but do not disclose the claim limitations in combination as set forth above.

Yamanaka (US Patent number 5892749) discloses a plurality of polarized beams using twin lenses for focusing on two different optical disks.

Richter (US Patent number 5905708) discloses a plurality of polarized beams to permits a plurality of information carrier layers to be read and written.

Oono (US Patent number 5793735) discloses reflected light from the disk to polarized the beam into P and S components using liquid crystal matrix and ½ wave plate.

Horimai et al (US Patent number 5917798) discloses a recording/reproducing optical system having polarized light, which enter into a hologram lens.

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Linh T. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-5513. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, A. Wellington can be reached on 571-272-4483. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LN
July 5, 2006



ANDREA WELLINGTON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER